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# *The academic achievement and career preparation of all Indiana students will be the best in the United States and on par with the most competitive countries in the world.*

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That, simply stated, is our vision for education in Indiana, and it begins by setting world-class standards for what students should know and be able to do.

## **Indiana's world-class standards**

Developed with the assistance of K-12 teachers, community members and content experts at the university level, Indiana's Academic Standards for Mathematics have been ranked among the very best in the nation by such respected authorities as Achieve, Inc. and the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. Widespread recognition for establishing clear, rigorous expectations at each grade level is significant, but the more critical challenge remains: ensuring these standards result in student learning.

With that goal in mind, this edition of Indiana's math standards integrates two important elements throughout: **core standards** and **process standards**. The core standards highlight the "big ideas" at each grade level to help teachers prioritize instruction around the essential concepts students must learn to advance to higher-level content. The process standards offer a comprehensive approach to classroom instruction that support students in acquiring and using that knowledge. Taken together, the academic standards and core standards encompass "what" students must learn while the process standards address "how" students learn.

## **Math matters**

There is no question that math opens the door to greater opportunities. A solid grounding in math is linked to greater success beyond high school, expanded career options, and increased earning power. Consider, for instance, that students who complete Algebra II are more than twice as likely to graduate from college, and they comprise three-fourths of adults in the top-paying quarter of jobs.

Math may be a passport to prosperity, but it also develops the critical thinking and analytic skills needed to tackle everyday problems ranging from managing personal finances, selecting a health care plan, choosing a mortgage, or planning for retirement. Clearly, rigorous math preparation can no longer be considered the domain of future engineers and scientists alone.

## **Expect more**

Meeting higher expectations leads to greater rewards and opportunities for our students. We know that by setting specific goals, everyone wins. Teachers have clear targets, students know what's expected, and parents have detailed information about their children's strengths and weaknesses. As a teacher, you know that parental involvement is vital to student success. The standards are a good way to engage parents in meaningful dialogue about their role in supporting student progress. It is also important to talk to students about these expectations – helping them take responsibility for their learning.

We cannot afford to let students give up on math because it does not come easily or perpetuate the belief – shared by many adults – that some simply cannot be "good" at math. Our students' peers in other countries generally accept the opposite to be true. Math can be challenging, but it will be learned given the necessary motivation and determination.

## **Learn more**

To learn more about Indiana's math standards and related resources designed to help students reach these essential expectations, visit [www.doe.in.gov/standards](http://www.doe.in.gov/standards). To learn more about the Indiana Department of Education's action plan for raising student achievement, visit [www.doe.in.gov/actionplan](http://www.doe.in.gov/actionplan).